

- (c) whether Government proposes to provide seeds to the drought affected farmers of Maharashtra free of cost for the ensuing crop season from SBS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Seed banks are in operation in States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Kerala Seed Bank is operated by Kerala State Seeds Development Authority while in Tamil Nadu through State's Department of Agriculture. National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India also operate Seed Banks at national level. The objective of the Seed Banks is to meet requirement of seed arising due to natural calamities and other unforeseen conditions like drought, floods etc. The certified and Foundation seeds of location specific varieties including local varieties, which are suitable for such situations are generally kept in the Seed Bank.

(c) Seed bank scheme for supply of seed to the farmers during contingency situation in Maharashtra is being implemented through Maharashtra State Seed Corporation. Presently, there is no such proposal with Maharashtra Government to provide seeds to the drought affected farmers of Maharashtra free of cost, for the ensuing the crop season from the Seed Bank Scheme.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

#### **Tissue culture in banana plantation**

4056. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether banana tissue culture plants are more resistant to viral diseases; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to promote tissue culture in banana plantations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Tissue culture generated planting material ensures freedom from viral diseases but tissue culture plants are not more resistant to viral diseases.

- (b)
- The planting material produced through tissue culture are free from virus (though it does not prevent infection of virus during growth), hence tissue cultured plants are promoted in banana cultivation.
  - Tissue culture protocols are standardized in Cavendish group. Cultivar G-9 is most popular and lakhs of seedlings are supplied through different companies who obtained the technology from research carried out through research institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research/State Agriculture Universities.
  - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Horticulture Mission" and "Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan State" for holistic development of horticulture including promotion of tissue culture banana plantations in India, under which subsidy is provided for taking up area expansion of Tissue Culture Banana. Support is also provided for setting up of tissue culture units for mass multiplication of tissue culture banana plants.

**Revival package for poultry industry**

4057. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Egg Coordination Committee has urged Government to extend a revival package of Rs. 57,000/- crore for poultry industry, as the poultry industry is facing the worst crisis due to an unprecedented rise in the price of poultry feed raw materials, soya meal and maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that maize prices increased from Rs. 1170/- per quintal to Rs. 1630/- per quintal and the price of soya meal increased from Rs. 1821/- per quintal a year ago to Rs. 3512/- per quintal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to extend revival package to this sector to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Government has received a petition